

Roundtable on Environmental Information and Documentation

On 25 February 1993, the IUCN Library hosted a Roundtable on Environmental Information and Documentation in the greater-Geneva area. Organized in cooperation with the International Academy of the Environment, the meeting brought together librarians and information managers from 32 intergovernmental, non-governmental, and Swiss, institutions — among them two members of the IUCN family: Intercooperation (Switzerland) and the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

During the lively discussion at the Roundtable it was decided to start work on a number of cooperative activities: creation of a Directory of Regional Information Sources, development of a *Réseau d'alerte sur la littérature de la biodiversité en langue française*, and inves-

tigation of suitable thesauri for indexing environmental and sustainable-development literature. These activities will be undertaken by a number of volunteers who will report back to a second meeting of the Roundtable later this year.

These new developments appear destined to extend in useful ways the facilities and effectiveness of the greater-Geneva area as a leading centre of environmental, conservational, and allied, activity.

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Immigration Policy: Learning from Neighbours

Migration has become a dominant political issue both nationally and internationally in the 1990s. As migration pressures continue to rise, immigrant-receiving countries' search for control is becoming more and more urgent. Unemployment, overburdened social programmes, housing shortages, overpopulation, environmental degradation, political upheaval, and the quest for European unity, are among the factors that have led many nations to rethink their immigration policies. Despite limited steps in Europe, there is a conspicuous lack of cooperation and information exchange among nations on which immigration will inevitably have a significant economic, social, and political, impact.

A new comparative study, *Immigration and Nationality Policies of Leading Migration Nations*, published by the Center for Immigration Studies, examines past and current migration policies of eleven countries and efforts by the European Community to harmonize immigration policy. It is a compendium of individual country reports, edited by the undersigned, in which each country report includes detailed information on immigration law, immigrant numbers and categories, illegal immigration, enforcement, immigrant rights, and naturalization policy. It is available from the address below at \$18 post-paid.

This compilation identifies many of the common issues on which increasingly heated national migration debates are focused, and it points out disparities as well. Many European countries have come to recognize that migration

presents them with a continental problem requiring a multi-lateral, European approach. Even before violent attacks against aliens began in Germany, most Western European countries were experiencing a backlash against large numbers of resident aliens — legal as well as illegal. While attempting to stem the migrant flow, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and others, have also adopted policies to lessen social unrest by encouraging the assimilation of legal residents into the national culture. The United States, on the other hand, has ignored the role which immigration plays in social strife and moved towards ever-larger numbers of immigrants.

The compendium is the first part of an ongoing project of the Center for Immigration Studies. It includes reports on Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States — all of which are major immigrant-sending or -receiving countries. The Center plans to update these reports as needed, and to complete new ones on such nations as Belgium, Brazil, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and Switzerland.

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World Environment Center Gold Medal for International Corporate Environmental Achievement

The 1993 WEC Gold Medal for International Corporate Environmental Achievement has been awarded to the Xerox Corporation for its proactive environmental policy which has progressively strengthened since the 1960s. That policy goes beyond the baseline of compliance and includes ongoing and measurable waste-reduction goals. 'Design for the Environment', which addresses environmental concern throughout product life-cycles, an ambitious energy and resource-conservation programme, and a policy that encourages both in-house and customer recycling of copier cartridges and paper, are all part of Xerox Corporation's proactive management practices at locations world-wide. Early on, and made possible by technological advances, Xerox Corporation banned all PCB- and asbestos-containing components.

Xerox's Environmental Health and Safety Department was formed in 1980 to advance environmental programmes. Included are annual environmental audits of all manufacturing facilities world-wide to identify hazards and ensure compliance with the highest environmental standards established by the Corporation. Site Waste-reduction and Recycling programmes complement Xerox Corporation's 'close the loop' materials purchasing practices. In 1985, Xerox Corporation initiated a voluntary clean-up of ground-water contamination on its properties world-wide.

The Corporation also plays a leading role in new technology application through innovations such as the elimination of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons in packaging and service materials, the replacement of most